

# HEALTH ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

## Prioritizing Method

The members of the Weakley County Health Council through the use of primary and secondary data determined the leading health concerns. This council consisted of representatives of county government, education, health care, the local ministerial alliance and local citizens groups.

The major task of the council was to identify the priority health problems of Weakley County in rank order. Using an modified version of the J.J. Hanlon method, the council rated each health problem according to the size of the health problem to reflect the percentage of the local population affected, the seriousness of the health problem, and the effectiveness or impact of intervening in the problem. Once the problems had been rated on size, seriousness and effectiveness of interventions, the PEARL test was applied to determine the Propriety, Economics, Acceptability, Resources available and Legality of intervening.

## Prioritized Health Problems

From the council's list of perceived health problems the following priority problems were established through the rating and prioritizing process, with this list being further prioritized to determine the health concerns selected for intervention in Weakley County.

### PRIORITIZED HEALTH PROBLEMS

1. **COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM**
2. **AFTER -SCHOOL PROGRAM**
3. **YOUTH ISSUES  
TEEN PREGNANCY  
SCHOOL/YOUTH VIOLENCE/ SAFETY  
STD PREVENTION  
ALCOHOL, DRUG, TOBACCO USE**
4. **HYPERTENSION/STROKE  
AND HEART DISEASE**
5. **DIABETES**
6. **CANCER**

### Problems Selected for Intervention

1. **COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL  
HEALTH PROGRAM**
2. **AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM**